## Sports

## 'Fist and foot' sport promotes body and mind

## By Barb Rogers Emerald Contributor

Tae Kwon Do, a traditional Korean martial art, literally means "the fist and foot way."

Not only does this sport demand much physical training and stamina, it also requires a strong positive mental attitude.

For those involved, Tae Kwon Do becomes a way of life and a continuous cycle of learning. The higher one progresses in the ranks of Tae Kwon Do, the greater one's spiritual awareness becomes.

"It's a good way to develop discipline." commented one University Tae Kwon Do club member.

Tae Kwon Do is becoming increasingly popular both internationally and at the University. About 30 students are involved in the club, and eight of those participated on last year's team.

"I think it is because Tae Kwon Do is going to be an official demonstration sport at the 1988 Olympic Games in Soeul, South Korea," said Christine Chan, coordinator of the University Tae Kwon Do club.

Despite an increase in participation. Chan hopes to recruit more women to the club. Only three women are currently members. She attributes this to a misconception that Tae Kwon Do is not a feminine sport.

But Chan said women have the oppurtunity to gain coordination, balance and



Second level black belt Rich Roberts, assistant coach of the University's Tae Kwon Do martial art team, holds a pine board split with a kick from red belt Christine Chan, coordinator of Tae Kwon Do club.

self-confidence through the sport. "I'm not afraid to walk alone on campus at night," she said.

The levels of ability and rank among club members vary from beginning white belts to the highly advanced black belts. The two coaches, Bill Melvin and Rich Roberts, have attained third- and second-level black belts, respectively.

Last summer Roberts broke five inches of pine wood with a sidekick, which put him at his second black belt level. There are nine levels of the black belt rank; only one person in the world currently holds a ninth-level ranking.

With the experienced coaching of Melvin and Roberts, the club provides members with an opportunity to advance in skill level and to aquire higher colors of belts.

In order to progress through the ranks of Tae Kwon Do, a series of tests are conducted. The first is a floor exercise much like a gymnastic floor routine.

The next requires the individual to break various widths of pine boards using the hands or feet. Then comes sparring much like that in boxing but with a routine set of defensive attacks. The last step is called "Free Sparring" — the same as sparring but with a chest protector.

As one progresses further up in the ranks, more emphasis is placed on using traditional Korean terminology.

Chan said she believes Tae Kwon Do is "a way to keep in touch with oriental culture."

The club works out twice a week all year long, keeping fit for regional tournament competitions, which are sponsored by the Choi's Martial Arts Academy, head of the Northwest Tae Kwon Do Association.

At these tournaments, competitors engage in full contact and non-contact sparring events.

"The most important thing is not the winning but the competing, because once you have shown up, you have already won," Melvin said.

## CLUB SPORTS SCOREBOARD:

Men's Soccer won both away games last weekend: Oregon vs. Idaho 4-0, Oct. 17 and Oregon vs. Eastern Oregon 5-1, Oct. 18

Women's Soccer lost its weekend game to Washington 5-1, Oct. 17.

Men's Rugby participated in the Beaver Bowl Tournament over the weekend, playing in five games. The Oregon Rugby Team won one out of the five games.

